



ARTICLE ALERT

Information Resource Center, October 2011

United States - ASEAN Relations

The United States is pursuing expanded engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This includes growth in their programs, their official Mission to ASEAN, and high-level engagement. The United States have renewed their bonds with allies, strengthened bilateral partnerships, and they are broadening their involvement with multilateral institutions.

ASEAN-US Summit, Bali



The United States committed to increase senior official engagement with ASEAN and President Barack Obama will represent the United States for the first time as a full member of the East Asia Summit

and the 3rd ASEAN-United States Leaders Meeting in Bali, November 17-19, 2011.

United States Mission to ASEAN

The U.S. Mission to ASEAN will engage ASEAN as an active, consistent, and reliable partner in the region.

Ambassador to ASEAN



Ambassador David L. Carden was sworn in as the United States' first Ambassador to ASEAN to be resident in Jakarta on March 29, 2011. Prior to being confirmed as US Ambassador to ASEAN,

Ambassador Carden was a partner at the international law firm, Jones Day, in New York City.

U.S. Participation and Engagement

The United States began engagement with ASEAN as a dialogue partner in 1977, and has

actively maintained cooperation with ASEAN ever since. Starting in the early 1990s, development cooperation has increased dramatically through the launch of economic programs focusing on trade and investment, technology transfer, and education.

Recently, the U.S. and ASEAN have redoubled engagement on many issues. Political and security discussions have focused on the role of the United States in maintaining peace and stability in the region, nuclear non-proliferation, regional security issues, and the Korean Peninsula. Economic engagement has seen the successful establishment of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. U.S.-ASEAN development cooperation has also focused on capacity building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, human rights, and trade facilitation.

USAID Projects for ASEAN

The U.S. Mission works closely with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on projects and engagement with ASEAN. USAID and the State Department have co-funded the ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration (ADVANCE) Project. This project has three ASEAN-wide elements:

- ◇ Technical Assistance and Training Facility (the Facility).
- ◇ ASEAN Single Window Program (ASW).
- ◇ Valuing Economic Linkages Under Economic Integration (VALUE).

Read more information and updates on the U.S. Mission to ASEAN at <http://asean.usmission.gov/>

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.

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Copies of the articles listed in Article Alert are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 4) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you at no cost.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. **BRAVE THINKERS 2011** (The Atlantic Online, November 2011)

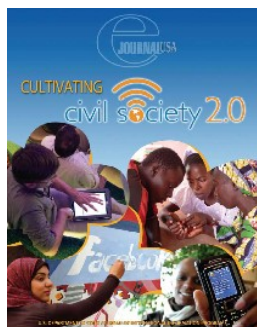
Brave Thinkers 2011, an annual guide released by the Atlantic magazine, provides stories on people risking their reputation and lives in pursuit of big ideas. Among them are Barack Obama; President of the United States, P.J. Crowley; Former State Department of State spokesperson, Isabel Castillo; Immigration activist, Steve Jobs; Former CEO of Apple, Peter Thiel; Technology entrepreneur and 16 more names. Currently available online at <http://goo.gl/iefzQ>

2. Sukma, Rizal. **DO NEW DEMOCRACIES SUPPORT DEMOCRACY? INDONESIA FINDS A NEW VOICE** (Journal of Democracy, Vol. 22, No. 4, October 2011)

Throughout the 1990s, resisting international pressures to democratize was one of the dominant features of Indonesia's foreign policy. Indonesia strongly resisted the democracy-promotion agenda present in the foreign

policies of Western countries, arguing that democracy was unsuitable for Asian societies. That position came to an end with the collapse of authoritarian rule in 1998. As the dust of domestic turmoil resulting from transition began to settle, Indonesia began to incorporate its democratic identity into foreign policy. Indonesia's desire to establish its credential as a regional proponent of democracy in Southeast Asia, however, is still sought within the limits imposed by the precarious nature of Indonesia's own democracy and the reality of regional politics. It also still registers a gap between its progressive outlook at regional level and conservative attitude in the international arena. Consequently, democracy can hardly function beyond an instrument to construct a new international identity for post-authoritarian Indonesia. In that context, the inclusion of democracy agenda in Indonesia's foreign policy is still best described as an exercise in democracy-projection rather than democracy-promotion. Currently available online at <http://goo.gl/vr4OT>

eJournal USA: Cultivating Civil Society 2.0



Civil society consists of organizations and institutions that help and look after people, their health and their rights. The work of civil society groups complements the efforts of governments and the private sector. Whether the goal is as local as building a new school or as global as stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS, civil society is a vital player and essential partner.

As more and more people around the world have gained access to computers, phones and other mobile communica-

tion devices, civil society organizations have kept pace. Civil society is pioneering the use of so-called "connection technologies" to improve health, promote transparency, advance human rights and uphold justice. Connection technologies are limited only by the ingenuity of their users. Increasingly, civil society groups are using technology in unprecedented ways to carry out their work and expand the sphere in which they operate.

This issue of eJournal USA explores the evolving intersection between civil society and technology and offers examples of how civil society organizations are exploiting technology's potential to give a voice to the voiceless and homes to the homeless. Available online in HTML and PDF at <http://goo.gl/iSazn>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Babb, MacKenzie. **ECONOMIC GROWTH AT FOREFRONT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, CLINTON SAYS** (IIP Digital, October 14, 2011)

Support for global growth is at the forefront of 21st-century U.S. foreign policy, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says as she outlines the Obama administration's plans to strengthen and modernize international economic cooperation. Clinton, in remarks to the Economic Club of New York October 14, said economic forces are transforming foreign policy realities around the world. To do so, she said, the State Department is committed to help companies seize opportunities around the world while working to "bring down barriers to trade, investment and fair competition." U.S. ambassadors are leading whole-of-government efforts to support new business initiatives and to fulfill President Obama's goal of doubling American exports by 2015. The complete version of Secretary Clinton's remarks is available online at <http://goo.gl/PJDpj>

4. **NEW PATENT LAW COULD SPEED UP U.S. INNOVATION** (IIP Digital, October 18, 2011)

The U.S. economy is driven to a large degree by innovation; therefore patents are essential to job creation. In September 2011, U.S. legislators approved the first major overhaul of patent law in nearly 60 years. Both sponsors of the bipartisan bill known as the America Invents Act — Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy and Republican Representative Lamar Smith — said it removes many barriers to innovation and helps U.S. inventors maintain the competitive edge in the global economy. President Obama, who signed the bill into law the same month, said, "This much-needed reform will speed up the patent process so that innovators and entrepreneurs can turn a new invention into a business as quickly as possible." Read more at <http://goo.gl/kMgf7>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

5. Clinton, Hillary **AMERICA'S PACIFIC CENTURY** (Foreign Policy Online, November 2011)

The future of politics will be decided in Asia, not Afghanistan or Iraq, and the United States will be right at the center of the action. The Asia-Pacific has become a key driver of global politics. Stretching from the Indian subcontinent to the western shores of the Americas, the region spans two oceans -- the Pacific and the Indian -- that are increasingly linked by shipping and strategy. It boasts almost half the world's population. It includes many of the key engines of the global economy, as well as the largest emitters of greenhouse gases. It is home to several of our key allies and important emerging powers like China, India, and Indonesia. Full text of this article is available online at <http://goo.gl/f8uZv>

6. Leffler, Melvyn P. **SEPTEMBER 11 IN RETROSPECT** (Foreign Affairs, September/October 2011)

Ten years after 9/11, we can begin to gain some perspective on the impact of that day's terrorist attacks on U.S. foreign policy. There was, and there remains, a natural tendency to say that the attacks changed everything. But a decade on, such conclusions seem unjustified. September 11 did alter the focus and foreign policy of the George W. Bush administration. But the administration's new approach, one that garnered so much praise and so much criticism, was less transformative than contemporaries thought. Much of it was consistent with long-term trends in U.S. foreign policy, and much has been continued by President Barack Obama. Some aspects merit the scorn often heaped on them; other aspects merit praise that was only grudging in the moment. Wherever one positions oneself, it is time to place the era in context and assess it as judiciously as possible.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

7. Carlson, Peter. **INTERVIEW WITH FILMMAKER KEN BURNS** (American History Online, August 2011)

Over the past 30 years, Ken Burns has made 20 documentary films about American history, including The Civil War, Jazz, Baseball and Brooklyn Bridger, as well as film biographies of Thomas Jefferson, Jack Johnson and Mark Twain. Shown repeatedly on public television, his films have been seen by millions of people, making him easily the most popular historian of our time. His latest documentary is Prohibition, a three-part, six-hour study of the so-called noble experiment that made alcoholic beverages illegal in the United States from 1920 to 1933. Prohibition will air on PBS stations in October. Currently available at: <http://goo.gl/DcorS>

8. Kendall, Joshua. **AMERICA'S FIRST GREAT GLOBAL WARMING DEBATE** (Smithsonian.com, Sept. 2011)

The date was 1799 and the opposing voices in America's first great debate about the link between human activity and rising temperature readings were not Al Gore and George W. Bush, but Thomas Jefferson and Noah Webster. Jefferson and Noah Webster argue over conventional wisdom that lasted thousands of years. Jefferson was affirming the long-standing conventional wisdom of the day. For more than two millennia, people had lamented that deforestation had resulted in rising temperatures meanwhile Webster concluded that the conversion of forest to fields has led to some macroclimatic changes-namely, more windiness and more variation in winter condition. Currently available at: <http://goo.gl/d7pl2>

Veterans Day - November 11, 2011



Veterans Day is an American federal holiday honoring military Veterans in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to U.S. national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day.

The Veterans Day National ceremony is held at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. Throughout the country, Americans observances the day with public ceremonies as well as private prayers, parades and patriotic activities. Read more at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>. Related link on Veterans Day FAQ by Answer.USA.gov is available at: <http://goo.gl/dBJTj>

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Information Resource Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5
Jakarta 10110

Phone: +62-21-3508467
Fax: +62-21-3508466
E-mail: ircjakarta@state.gov

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Request for:

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